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ON THE EDUCATION AND CONDUCT OF A PHYSICIAN.

[If our readers delight as much as we do in perusing all that comes from the pen of that able physician and accomplished gentleman and scholar, Sir Henry Hallford, they will ask of us no apology for transferring to our pages the following paper read by him as President of the London College of Physicians, at the opening of its meetings for the present season.]

It was a favorite remark of a very accomplished Roman—Pomponius Atticus—that “*sui cuique mores conciliant fortunam* ;” and the motto of William of Wykeham, to whom many of you have been indebted for your education, was, “*Manners maketh man.*”

Now we shall do great injustice, both to the Roman senator and to the illustrious ecclesiastic of our own country, if we interpret the “*mores*” of the former and the “*manners*” of the latter by the mere personal demeanor of a man. They must be construed into his principles, his generous sentiments ; what is in a soldier, his honor ; in a lawyer, his integrity ; in the churchman, his exemplary carriage and conduct ; and in a physician, all that is enjoined in the oath of Hippocrates : not only a consummate knowledge of the resources of his art, but a gentleness of manner, a sacred reserve as to the affairs of families into which he may be admitted, a delicacy and a chastity proof against all temptation. In short, he must not have witnessed sacrifices to Moloch, or the rites of Flora, “*ubi Cato spectator esse non potuit.*”

But manners, in this sense of the word, are the result of education. Uneducated man knows nothing of sentiment. He is governed by two predominant and paramount objects—the gratification of his passions, and the appropriation to himself of everything to which he may take a fancy. Education, conducted upon Christian principles, eradicates this selfishness gradually, and finally makes him fit for society. He is taught to see the propriety, as well as the immediate advantages, of reciprocal kindness ; of conceding something which he possesses to the wants of others, and of receiving in return similar accommodation. Presently he anticipates the wishes of his companion, and volunteers the gratification of them ; and thus lays the foundation of a friendship in the “*idem velle atque idem nolle.*” At length, by good examples, he acquires the essential principles of good breeding, “*nunquam se præponens aliis, adversus nemini* ;” and as far as proper feelings are concerned, which are best obtained and improved by communication and close intercourse with those who possess them, he is so far prepared to fulfil his duties in society.

Whilst the “*mores,*” the result and manifestation of the moral principle,

are thus developed and enlarged—in the process of which enlargement and development an uncompromising adhesion to truth is rigidly enforced, as absolutely necessary to future character—the reasoning faculties are strengthened, and the mind advances in power. A disposition to make observations on what is passing arises, and must be encouraged; comparisons must be instituted, in order to teach the drawing of correct inferences; a knowledge of mankind must be acquired, as far as books will teach it; the classics, those depositories of the wisdom of ancient days, which allure all men that are studious into that delicate and polished kind of learning, must be pored over night and day.

“——— *Vos exemplaria Græcæ
Nocturnâ versate manu, versate diurnâ.*”

But it should not be forgotten that it is a mistake, and a perversion of learning, when men study words and not matter, and fail to acquire something, when they read, which they can fairly call their own: for

“——— *Who reads
Incessantly, and to his reading brings not
A spirit and judgment, equal or superior,
Uncertain and unsettled still remains,
Deep versed in books, and shallow in himself.*”—MILTON.

But if the study of the classics be directed with judgment, it will be found that they exhibit the best models of order and of taste. In them may be traced the origin, progress, and decline of knowledge; they contain the history, and display the picture, of a world gone by, which has left specimens of the cultivation of the arts and of the efforts of human intellect, which no subsequent age has equalled, much less surpassed. Classical knowledge, therefore, will be applicable on ten thousand occasions, to illustrate and adorn science. It is interesting to each of the learned professions. To that of the lawyer, who, though he look no higher than the age of Justinian for the first systematic digest of law, yet may find, in the Greek and Roman orators, the most luminous expositions of complicated details, and the most powerful appeals to the feelings and to the reason of an audience. To that of the churchman, by presenting to him, amongst other attractions, a valuable system of ethics, though it be deficient in the great points of general benevolence and charity, and is altogether much inferior to that which we have all the happiness of possessing in the New Testament; nor can he fail to find a perfect intellectual enjoyment in comparing the songs of the favored people of God with the beautiful hymns of Pagan poetry.

But to the physician, whose profession is of all countries and of every age, they are doubly attractive; because he perceives, in the ancient historians, the origin of many of the terms of his art, the earliest mention of some remedies whose value has since been confirmed by time and use, and in the poets the most touching descriptions of the effects of moral causes upon the health of the human system—to say nothing of the pure delight of such sources of innocent amusement as those which are opened in these fountains, and which are so well calculated to heighten the pleasures of future success, and to soften the adversities of possible disappointment.

The mathematics may now be cultivated with advantage, because they assist in forming the mind to clear perception and to accurate rea-

soning ; and further, as they open the road which must hereafter be travelled in pursuit of all science. But with these studies must be mixed a large acquaintance with those divine truths which are the port and sabbath (to use Lord Bacon's words) of all human contemplations. It must never be forgotten, in any system of education, that religion is the cementing and preserving principle of civil society, and the source of all good and of all comfort.

A pupil thus sent forth accomplished in a virtuous discipline, fitted to procure him attention and respect in his place in society, may now commence the study of our profession ; a profession which calls for the constant exercise of a quick perception, a sound judgment, a perfect knowledge of all the resources of our art, and an indefatigable industry ; and which will be amply rewarded by what is better than honors and wealth—the blessings of thousands on his successful skill.

His first care will be to make himself fully acquainted with the curious structure of the human frame ; the functions of every part in a state of health, and its deviations from that sane and healthy condition under diseases, the symptoms of which he must next learn to discriminate with the nicest care. After this, he will inform himself profoundly of the various remedies of our art ; whether they be supplied by the botanist or the chemist, or from whatever other source ; and lastly, with the appropriate application of medicine to particular disease. I forbear to enter more minutely into the order in which lectures should be attended : every medical school has its own arrangements.

But it may not be unnecessary to guard the student against being seduced to pay a disproportionate attention to any one branch of the course. To become exclusively the botanist, or chemist, or even the anatomist, where the one great object is the cure of diseases, will narrow both his resources and his mind, and will make him incur the risk of a failure in the end. Philosophy, to an intellect now so well prepared to investigate its hidden truths, and to make discoveries in the ample field of general science, presents, it must be admitted, most seductive charms. But the example of Hercules, in the interesting story of his choice, must govern the student's conduct ; and he will do well to remember the rebuke of Menedemus in the play—

*"Chreme, tantumne est ab re tua otii tibi,
Aliena ut cures, eaque, nihil quam ad te attinent."*

No ; the cure of diseases, I repeat it, is the physician's object ; and he must not allow anything to divert his eye from this great mark. Botany and chemistry, enchanting as they are, only furnish tools to the hands of the workmen : they are but subsidiary instruments, wherewith to execute, not to form, great designs.

Nor is it safe to attach himself to the consideration of some one particular disease. If exclusive and peculiar attention be given to one malady, with the ambition of acquiring early fame by it, suspicion will arise that this physician's mind is less comprehensive than is necessary to take in all the objects within the horizon of science. Nor is it less impolitic and prejudicial in another point of view ; for if any one case turn out ill in the hands of such a person, his good name will be put into jeopardy immediately, on the conclusion (lame and impotent it may be) that if he

could not cure a disease to which he had paid such extraordinary attention, how should he master another which had not duly engaged his mind ?

Nor must he addict himself to any particular system, nor swear by the opinions of any master. He must exercise his own judgment, and be ready to profit of occasions, "*scire uti foro*," according to the Roman proverb ; and to accommodate himself to circumstances as they arise, either by the adoption of a new treatment by new remedies, or by the use of accredited ones in new and unusual doses ; remembering another remark of that great master of human nature, Terence :—

"*Nunquam ita quisquam bene subducta ratione ad vitam fuit,
Quia res, etas, usus semper aliquid apportet novi ;
Aliquid moneat, ut illa, quæ to scire credas, neceas ;
Et quæ tibi potaris prima, in experiundo repudies.*"

He must be patient, he *should* be healthy (for good health implies cheerfulness and the best condition of the temper), and disengaged from all other pursuits whatsoever. He ought to be kind, and strictly honorable to his associates. He should have a quick perception of propriety, a ready sense of the "*quod deet et decorum est*," and must not indulge in any peculiarity of humor or bad habit. If there be "some virious mole of nature" in him—anything which carries the stamp of one defect (to adopt Hamlet's phrase)—he must do his best to correct this :

"*His virtues, else (be they as pure as grace,
As infinite as man may undergo),
Shall, in the general censure, take corruption
From that particular fault.*"

He should possess a heart, though firm enough to encounter appalling scenes, yet full of sensibility and tenderness ; one which shall respond quickly to the feelings of another, and so be likely to conciliate the sick man's confidence and attachment. Nor is this kind and tender feeling utterly incompatible with an unpolished manner : we have seen it united with a homely carriage, yet succeed in more than one memorable instance in our own time. But I would rather state it, that their powerful acquirements had made these estimable persons succeed, not *by* a bad manner, but *in spite* of it. This it is important to impress upon your minds, lest some of you be misled by their examples, unwittingly, to be careless of your demeanor, the sole trait of these great departed characters unworthy of your imitation.

I am tempted here to add, what Plato said to his master Socrates—that he was like the gallipots of the druggists, which had on the outside apes, and owls, and other grotesque figures, but contained within sovereign and precious balms ; acknowledging, that to an external report he was not without superficial levities and deformities, but was inwardly replenished with excellent virtues and powers. But this good feeling of which I have spoken is necessary not to the patient alone, but to those who are surrounding his sick bed. He himself may have been rendered insensible, by the pressure of his disease, to the kindest offices of those who are attached to him ; but *they* want the physician's balmy consolation to assuage the smart of their affliction ; and as his sympathy will have been manifested in moments of tenderness, the impression it makes will be remembered and acknowledged by future confidence and esteem.

Of his duty towards the family, in making them acquainted with the patient's danger as soon as himself shall perceive it, I have spoken on a former occasion ; and you have heard me with so much attention, that I need not trespass on your patience by repeating my observations.

So much for the proper education and conduct of a physician : and surely it will be allowed that a person gifted with a good intellect, so chastised and enlightened, increases the respectability of the profession generally, and creates a strong claim to the esteem of its members.

The point on which I presume to insist with most earnestness is the necessity of a preliminary, strict, and virtuous education. Having been taught to search for truth, the mind is better prepared to look for it, and to find it. To embark in an undertaking which requires so much thought as the attempt to unravel the perplexities of disease, without having learned the first principles of reasoning, can lead only to empiricism, or the practising upon receipts ; and when that profession is to be exercised in the very interior of domestic privacy, unless the bad propensities of our nature shall have been subdued, and kept under severe habitual control by moral discipline, there will be danger perpetually of bringing the whole faculty into disrepute. Let these first principles be acquired carefully, and let the student's mind be taught to expand and enlarge itself by a knowledge of the wisdom of former ages :—let him converse with Plato, Aristotle, and Hippocrates ; as Friend, and Mead, and Warren, and Heberden, and Sir George Baker, did ; and let reason and the moral sense, enlightened and strengthened by religion, have gained a firm ascendancy and rule over his passions. Let him be careful to adopt the sentiments and the manners of a gentleman, by preferring such associates as are distinguished by their elevation of mind, their sound principles, and their good manners : the latter have been classed amongst the minor virtues, and are better taught by example than by precept. It is indifferent to me where these acquisitions shall have been made, whether in our own universities or in foreign schools ; for I am not so illiberal as to conclude that nothing attic can be taught *without* the walls of Athens. I know, however, that in our own universities good men are to be found, who are as incapable of an ignoble sentiment as of an unbecoming demeanor ; and that sound learning—such as will capacitate a man as well for the highest employment of the state, as for the less ambitious pursuit of our useful profession—and the most efficient systems of moral discipline, are taught and practised. And if they must yield to the capital in the larger facilities afforded here of acquiring a familiarity with disease, and a knowledge of the practice of physic, be it so : their merit is not diminished by this consideration ; for when the appetite for the knowledge that is wanted has been sharpened by the air and wholesome habits of the universities, if it do not find the food it desires there, it will migrate in search of it into whatever regions it is most likely to be found in. Harvey went to Padua, Mead to Utrecht, Sir George Baker to Leyden ; and those physicians of later times, who, fired by the light of these brilliant examples, have endeavored to tread in their steps, have sought, after due preliminary study, their physic in the successive schools of celebrity, as they have been eminent in their turn ; and so has there never been wanting a succession of learned and able men, who have been distin-

guished by their great attainments, and have added a dignity to our profession, which has raised it pre-eminently in England above the consideration which it obtains in any other country in the world. *ESTO PERPETUA !*

TREATMENT OF DRY EARS AND DEAFNESS.

IN A LETTER FROM DR. W. M. COATES TO THE EDITOR OF THE MEDICAL GAZETTE.

I NEED hardly mention that the lining membrane of the meatus auditorius externus and membrana tympani, in its most perfect state of health, is covered by a moist yellow substance very much resembling bees' wax, but of much softer consistence. This cerumen is secreted by numerous glands, called ceruminous, placed underneath the cuticular lining of the meatus. The ducts proceeding from these glands open near the roots of delicate hairs found in this situation. When this secretion is either too abundant or deficient, deafness is the result. It is with the latter state of things we have to do.

Deficient secretion of the cerumen is produced by various causes. A common cold may excite inflammation in the glands, and induce a dry state of the meatus. The well-known symptoms are sensation of heat and itching in the part, and earache; the natural cure is effected by a copious secretion from the part. As to the medical treatment, a pediluvium, with a warm bed, is all that is necessary.

I have found it very often accompanying a dry tongue and skin, with scanty secretions from the bowels. Until these morbid conditions are removed, no local applications are serviceable; and when the intestinal canal and skin are brought to act properly, there is seldom more to do.

But there is a dry state of this part strictly local, and which has always appeared to me to have arisen from an indolent state of the ceruminous glands. The symptoms are more or less deafness—sometimes to a great degree. When the patient happens to catch a sound, it is sharp, and causes unpleasant noise in the ears for some time after. On examining the part the cubicular lining is white, and quite destitute of the ordinary secretion. The following case illustrates pretty well the affection, and the mode of treatment which I have found most successful:—

Charlotte Osborne, aged 22, has been deaf nine months, the complaint having gradually arrived at its present intensity. Present symptoms, May 14, 1833: very deaf of both ears, but more particularly so of the right. Of a costive habit; tongue white and dry; of heavy aspect, and inattentive behavior. Left ear quite destitute of cerumen; the right has rather more than its usual proportion. Her ears were syringed with soft soap and moderately warm water; and she was ordered—*Pilula Hydrargyri*, gr. iij. *omni nocte*. *Magnesie Subcarbonatis*, gr. viij.; *Rhei Pulveris*, gr. x. *omni mane*.

May 19th.—Tongue clean and moist; bowels freely open. The left ear is evidently worse; the right is improved somewhat. Having syringed both ears, I applied, by means of a small camel's hair brush, to the left membrana tympani, a very minute portion of the following oint-

ment, rendered soft by the admixture of a little almond oil. *Unguenti Hydrargyri Nitratis Diluti*, 3j.; *Unguenti Cetacei*, 3ij. *Misce*.

21st.—Has had some slight pain in the left ear, but can hear much better with it; the right continues to improve. The ointment to be applied to the left *membrana tympani* every other morning.

July 28th.—She has continued this treatment ever since. She has become of ruddy complexion, lusty, and lively in her behavior. She expresses herself as hearing as well as she ever did.

I must observe, that the cure was retarded considerably by a severe cold caught during the latter part of the treatment.

There is another species of deafness, differing in its cause from the above, but very often mistaken for it. It arises from a faulty secretion from the ceruminous glands, and occurs now and then with, or alternating with, strumous ophthalmia. In these cases there is a good deal of irritation and noise in the ears. On examination of the external meatus there is no deficiency, but occasionally an unnatural dingy color of the cerumen. This affection occurs ordinarily in persons accustomed to unwholesome food, and destitute of the common comforts of life. As the causes can seldom be removed, we treat the disease under very unfavorable circumstances; however, I have generally succeeded in curing this affection for the time being, but on the patient returning to his old habits, like all scrofulous complaints (for I believe this to be almost always dependent on a scrofulous diathesis), it generally re-appears.

The first indication is to correct the secretions from the bowels, which are generally of an unnatural character, by mild mercurials; I generally use the *hydr. c. creta* in small and repeated doses. The second, to diminish the irritability of the secreting membrane; this I do by the application of a solution of the *argenti nitratis*, in the proportion of one grain to the ounce of distilled water. It was the following case that led me to adopt this practice in the first instance.

Francis Murray, aged 16, placed himself under my care July 10, 1833, for strumous ophthalmia, with great vascular opacity of the cornea, and intense vascularity of the conjunctiva lining the lids. I leached, blistered, and purged him with no good effect; and having observed how powerful is the effect of the nitrate of silver in allaying irritation, I ordered him this lotion, to be dropped into the eye three times a day:—*Argenti Nitratis*, gr. ij.; *Aq. Distillata*, 3j. *Misce*. *Pulv. Hydrarg. c. creta*, gr. v. bis die.

July 20th.—The inflammation has subsided to a slight blush of the lower lid; the lymph has been absorbed; there is no intolerance of light, which was great at the commencement of the treatment. Upon the disappearance of the ophthalmia he became deaf. On examining his ears, the quantity of cerumen was natural, but it had a greenish appearance; he had tingling and constant noise in the ears.

His ears were syringed twice with no benefit; it then struck me that the *argenti nitratis* might be of service here; for this affection of the meatus appeared to me somewhat analogous to that of the conjunctiva.

I ordered the solution of it, of one-half the strength of that which had been applied to the eye, to be dropped into the ear twice or thrice a day, and waited the result with anxiety. It answered my most sanguine ex-

pectations, for in less than a week his hearing was quite recovered. I have since lost sight of this patient, so do not know whether this affection has ever returned; but the same treatment has been successful in several other cases.

ACETATE OF LEAD.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MR. EDITOR,—In the number of your Journal for March 19th last, I find some cases, originally published in a German work, illustrative of the use of acetate of lead in pulmonary affections. This article I have employed, to a considerable extent, in various diseases, within the last few years, and confident am I that it is a perfectly safe and very valuable remedy in numerous complaints. I am persuaded that the extent of its therapeutic powers is little known, and even little suspected.—And here I would remark, that the determining of a new power belonging to an old remedy is an addition to our knowledge as important as the discovering of a new remedy. This truth hardly seems to be recognized. It is very often considered that the domain of medical knowledge is most sensibly enlarged by additions to our *materia medica*; whereas, it seems to me, that it is equally extended by perfecting our acquaintance with the medicinal agents already in our possession. We have important remedial articles of known efficiency, which have been in use for a long period, whose powers are, at the same time, so imperfectly understood, that we are perpetually exposed to disappointment in employing them. Such articles are opium, antimony, calomel, arsenic, lead, Peruvian bark, &c. &c. And why are we disappointed in the use of these remedies? Because of the indefiniteness of our knowledge regarding them. We do not know with sufficient accuracy their operation upon the human system, and the precise pathological states which each is calculated to relieve. We have contented ourselves too much with *generalities*, which we find worth little at the bedside of the sick. The fact that a medicine will vomit, or purge, or sweat, or stimulate, or refrigerate, under certain circumstances, is of little consequence unless we are intimately acquainted with these circumstances. We must know *particulars* if we would add to our skill, or the certainty of our science. We must not only know that a remedy is narcotic, expectorant, deobstruent, &c.; but we must know, as far as possible, the precise combination of circumstances which is necessary in the production of a given effect. We must know the physical *why*. We must know the particular organs, the particular functions, the particular tissues and structures on which it operates, or to which it is determined; and then we must be familiar with the precise modification which it occasions in the mode of being or action in the part or parts on which its force is spent. It is this *minute* information which we find most available in practice; indeed, no other can be safely used. I would say, then, let our original inquirers be more eager in acquiring this *minute* information, than in ascertaining those general properties which have received the appellations emetic, cathartic, diuretic, &c. No man can be an able physician whose views are not definite,

precise—who does not penetrate beneath the surface of things, and detect the secret operations of nature. I would then conclude this digression (which may the reader pardon), by saying, that the boundaries of our science and the accuracy and perfection of our art are not to be extended so much by the multiplication of our therapeutical instruments, as by becoming more intimately and thoroughly acquainted with those already in our hands. We do not lack weapons so much as dexterity in the use of them. Our arms are sufficiently numerous, or, at any rate, so numerous that we should feel no anxiety to increase them, while we are so awkward in the exercise of those which we have, and while the addition of new ones, by withdrawing attention, might prevent us from farther perfecting ourselves in the use of the arms with which we have been long familiar.

Lead is one of the articles which have been overlooked in the rage for new remedies. All the published accounts regarding it give us but the most vague and inadequate notions of its powers. It is well worthy the attention of the experimenter and the practical physician; and until its virtues are more fully known, we need not search the various kingdoms of nature in quest of new therapeutical agents.

The most important known property of lead is its power to relieve certain kinds of inflammation and irritation of the mucous membranes, accompanied by profuse or otherwise morbid secretions. It seems to have a specific operation upon the capillary vessels, removing congestion, allaying excitement and disordered action, and restoring the balance between the secretory and absorbent vessels. It reduces frequency and hardness of pulse when dependent upon this state of the tissues, particularly the mucous tissues, calms the system and quiets febrile irritation. It does not seem to have any very positive direct action upon the sanguineous system; hence it may be used in quite different states of this system. It may be employed in chronic, acute, and subacute diseases, when the case is appropriate. I have employed it in several cases of acute typhoid pneumonia, particularly in its second stage, accompanied by profuse muco-sanguineous expectoration, distressed respiration, frequent, irritated pulse, hot or sweaty skin, &c., sometimes with very remarkable success. In such cases it should be employed very freely, say from two to five grains every two or four hours, in combination with opium. Generally the teeth and gums become of a leaden color after using it thus freely twenty-four or forty-eight hours, which is as long a time ordinarily as is necessary. In chronic, irritative coughs, without secretion from the membrane of the lungs, and in coughs attended with copious secretion, I have found it an invaluable remedy, combined with opium, or opium and ipecac. It is an important remedy in diarrhoea and in the second stage of dysentery. I have tried it in one case of epidemic cholera with very unexpected success, after the failure of everything else on which I had been accustomed to rely. The case was not one of the most rapid, but was of a kind which was generally found very unmanageable. It was attended by profuse, frequent, and exhausting rice-water discharges from the bowels, with occasional vomiting. A drachm of sugar of lead was given. It vomited and purged my patient actively, and speedy convalescence was the consequence. I have resorted to it

ocasionally, as an internal remedy, in gonorrhœa, with the best effects. It is believed it very rarely produces poisonous effects when used as a medicine; at least, it has never done so in my practice, though it has been commonly combined with opium, which is supposed to be an antidote to such effects.

These remarks, let it be recollected, are not designed as a complete account of the therapeutic uses of acetate of lead. They are rather for the purpose of turning attention to an important remedy, and eliciting remarks from some of the correspondents of this Journal. BETA.

April 1, 1834.

CASES OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

BY H. A. BARROWS, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

CASE I.—January 14, 1832. James Alden, aged 17 years, originally of a sanguine temperament, but now become phlegmatic by custom—being trained up to sedentary habits and indolence; his constitution naturally good, but impaired by his indolent mode of life. Has been much troubled of late with constipation and mental dejection. The rheumatic attack came on gradually; it commenced in the shoulders, and from thence, as a starting point, soon began to manifest its peculiar disposition to metastasis. Each of the large joints suffered in its turn during the first three weeks, and the usual remedies were adopted with nearly uniform success. At the expiration of the third week, metastasis having gone its round, the disease became general; instead of a solitary joint or two being affected, every bone and joint in the system appeared now to suffer, and to a degree far more intense than at the previous attacks. The usual remedies were promptly and perseveringly administered, but now with but little alleviation. Discouraged with other means, a sulphur bath, similar to that described in your valuable Journal, Vol. IX. p. 158, was procured, and used to the entire satisfaction of all parties except the immediate attendants—the bath not being so tight but that a portion of the burning sulphur fumes might escape, to the very serious annoyance of those in the vicinity. The patient was very much improved by the first trial, and uniformly benefited by its repetition, until it finally amounted to a perfect cure, in ten days from its commencement.

CASE II.—April 30, 1833. Reuben Pinkham, aged 30. Sanguine temperament in full; a very active and hard working man; has uniformly enjoyed excellent health from a child—is now plethoric, and quite fleshy. Attended a raising this afternoon; the timber was green and heavy—he lifted violently, got thoroughly wet in a shower, and, to wind up, joined in a “game of ball” after the raising.

May 1st.—Feels clumsy—joints stiff and limbs sore.

2nd.—Much worse. The clumsiness and soreness of yesterday amount to-day to actual pain. Commenced first in the lumbar region; thence descending, located itself in the knees.

3rd.—The attack has become so serious he could wait no longer, but called a physician, who bled him sparingly, applied a plaster of Pix.

Burg. to the loins, and ordered diaphoretics. I saw this patient for the first time on the evening of the 4th. Found him suffering acute pain in the knees and ankles, attended with redness and swelling. Pulse 105, full, tense, and hard; tongue heavily loaded. Bled him twenty-four oz. and cupped with scarifications from the knees to the ankles thoroughly.

May 5th.—No better; swelling and pain increased. Used stimulating liniments in friction, and applied blisters to the most painful joints. The blisters invariably relieved the parts to which they were applied, but metastasis to other joints followed as a matter of course.

6th, 7th, 8th and 9th.—Stationary; the pain being followed up with liniments and an occasional blister, kept up a lively march from one joint to another.

May 10th.—Better A. M., but by over-exertion brought on a renewed attack, which, by evening, became very severe.

May 13th.—Commenced the following prescription: Calomel 1 gr. Opium 1-2 gr., Tart. Ant. 1-4 gr., in pill once in six hours. Continued till salivation, and some days after. From the commencement of the sore mouth there was a perceptible amendment, "very slow, but sure"—so "slow" that he was not able to begin to labor till the middle of the third month, but withal so "sure" that the convalescence, once begun, went on uninterruptedly till he was well, and to the present, March 20th, 1834, has had no return of the complaint, not even in the chronic form, and enjoys extraordinary good health.

CASE III.—January 13, 1834. Thomas Dah, aged 28. Sanguine temperament, and generally healthy, though not so very robust as Pinkham, but like him a hard-working man, active and industrious. Has been troubled with occasional attacks of acute rheumatism for some years. For the origin of the present attack he assigns a sudden cold. I find also, upon examination, considerable derangement in the digestive organs; tongue much furred; arterial excitement moderate.

Treatment.—Commenced with vs. 14 oz.; then thorough vomiting, followed with drastic cathartics and diaphoretics. The patient was convalescent forthwith, and got nearly well, when, on the 24th, he suffered a relapse more severe than the first attack. The former means were resorted to, but not with equal success. Recourse was then had to saturated vinegar of colchicum, taken in large doses and repeated once an hour. This was continued twenty hours, when it had produced such an excitement in the stomach and bowels it could be continued no longer; the stomach had become so irritable it could retain nothing, and the bowels were acting with vehemence, amounting to a serious diarrhoea;—but the patient was cured, and was very ready to acknowledge that the "remedy was not worse than the disease," though he was much distressed for some hours on account of the excessive irritability of the digestive organs.

Phillips, Maine, March 20, 1834.

REMARKS ON AMENORRHOEA AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

To the Editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

DEAR SIR,—If you think the following remarks worth inserting, you can let them have a place in your useful Journal.

Goochland Co., Va. March 24, 1834.

Yours,

STAPLETON COATES.

THE object of this communication is not to give a physiological and pathological detail of amenorrhœa, and those diseases arising from it, but to call the attention of physicians more particularly to examine the condition of the uterine system when prescribing for females in affections of the organs which sympathize especially with the uterus. Sympathetic affections, it must be admitted, require the most strict investigation before a practitioner can be justified in forming a diagnosis; for vain would be his efforts to effect the permanent cure of a disease, by directing his remedies to the organs secondarily affected, while the primary affection escapes his observation.

The existence of the most intimate sympathetic relations between the uterus, and the brain, the lungs, the stomach, and the mammae, is generally admitted by medical men, and it would be fortunate for their patients if this sympathy were at all times strictly regarded in pathological distinctions. The *fons et origo* of the symptoms developed should be diligently sought by the physician who attempts the permanent eradication of a disease, with any hope of success. How many amiable and highly interesting females have, in early life, fallen victims to affections of the thorax, which might have been preceded and induced by some irregularity in menstruation, such as either the partial or total suppression of this evacuation. A young female in whom the menstrual function has been just established, by exposure to cold or some imprudent conduct has this discharge suppressed, consequently the whole system may soon become deranged; headache, cardialgia, languor, debility, paleness of the countenance, palpitation of the heart, dyspnœa and anorexia, are the symptoms which most readily present themselves, and which, without a farther investigation, may mislead the diagnostic pretensions of the physician. I meet with no small number of females with the symptoms above enumerated, who either from modesty, or from not applying to skilful physicians, are losing precious moments of their lives in taking magnesia, Seidlitz powders, and other such remedies as afford only temporary relief. That the diagnosis in these cases can be generally formed correctly, I doubt not, when the proper investigation is made—an investigation which has been too often omitted on account of a delicacy, which sometimes renders the examination of the disease of a young female rather difficult. To this delicacy a due regard should be paid by all practitioners; but they should never suffer it to influence them so far as not to make every examination which may in any degree promote the welfare of their patients.

Observation, during the short period I have devoted my attention to the practice of medicine, has induced me thus to urge the importance of ascertaining the state of the uterine system in the complaints of females; because in examining those patients who for some time have shown symp-

toms of dyspepsia, phthisis pulmonalis, or hydrothorax, I have found that amenorrhœa had been in a great many cases the primary affection, at least the suppression of the menstrual evacuation had been the first symptom that attracted the attention of the patient. I do not pretend to say that amenorrhœa invariably precedes the affections above mentioned; for doubtless irregularity in the uterine functions frequently arises from diseases of the thorax. Is it not owing partly to the neglect of amenorrhœa that we see so many females laboring under dyspepsia, phthisis pulmonalis, or hydrothorax? Were menstrual irregularities more strictly attended to in the complaints of young females, I doubt not we should see fewer of them brought to an untimely grave by that deplorable disease, pulmonary consumption. My daily observation confirms me in the belief that many a female has so far concealed the primary affection, as to be treated for dyspepsia alone, or for phthisis pulmonalis, as not at all dependent upon amenorrhœa, when this last disease was in fact the cause of the gastric or of the pulmonary affection. By such attention as I here recommend, may not phthisis pulmonalis sometimes be prevented, when there is no hereditary predisposition; and may not the lives of many useful individuals be prolonged, even when they are hereditarily predisposed to it? Would it not be better if the class of remedies termed *Emenagogues* were more frequently resorted to, in the complaints of females? My experience with these remedies convinces me more, every day, of their great utility. They certainly exert a powerful influence over the uterus, if not a specific action.

In concluding these remarks, I cannot avoid mentioning the very unexpected success I have had with Dr. Griffith's myrrh mixture, in what I conceived to be incipient phthisis depending upon suppressed menstruation. After the usual preparation of the patients for *emenagogues* and tonics, this prescription has proved most effectual, not only in removing the symptoms of phthisis, but in re-establishing the catamenial discharge. In this mixture we have a remedy which acts considerably on the lungs and the uterus at the same time. From my limited experience with Dr. Griffith's myrrh mixture in such cases as I have mentioned above, I earnestly recommend it to those of my brethren of the profession who have not given it a trial.

The very earnest solicitude I feel for the welfare of the many females who suffer for the want of timely aid has induced me to make this communication, with the hope that more particular attention will be devoted to the subject.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, APRIL 16, 1834.

LAW RESPECTING DISSECTION IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

DURING the recent session of our Legislature some alteration was made in the Anatomy Act, and we present a copy of the law as it finally passed and now exists. This law, if faithfully executed by the civil au-

thorities, puts an end to the necessity of obtaining subjects in a surreptitious manner, in this Commonwealth. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the medical profession will discountenance and break up the practice of violating the sepulchres of the dead for the purposes of science.

An Act in addition to "An Act more effectually to Protect the Sepulchres of the Dead, and to Legalize the Study of Anatomy in certain cases."

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That hereafter it shall not be lawful to locate or construct any railroad, canal, turnpike, highway, townway, or public easement whatsoever, in, upon, or through any enclosure used or appropriated for the burial of the dead, without authority to that effect, specially granted by law; and any person offending against the foregoing provision, shall be subject to indictment, in any Court competent to try the same, and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or a fine, to the use of the Commonwealth, not exceeding two thousand dollars, or both of said punishments, at the discretion of the Court trying the same, and according to the nature and aggravation of the offence. *Provided, nevertheless,* That this enactment shall not apply to any such railroad or other public easement already located.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That if any person shall wilfully destroy, mutilate, deface, injure or remove any tomb, monument, grave-stone, or other structure placed in memory of the dead; or any fence, railing, or other curb for the protection or ornament of any tomb, monument, grave-stone, or other structure aforesaid, or of any enclosure for the burial of the dead; or shall wilfully destroy, remove, cut, break or injure any tree or shrub, placed for ornament within the limits of any such enclosure; such person so offending, shall forfeit and pay, to the use of the Commonwealth, a sum not less than ten nor more than five hundred dollars, to be recovered by indictment in any Court competent to try the same.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the Board of Health, Overseers of the Poor, and Selectmen of any town in this Commonwealth, and for the Directors of the House of Industry, Board of Health, Overseers of the Poor, or Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Boston, to surrender the dead bodies of such persons as it may be necessary to bury at the public expense, to any regular Physician, duly licensed according to the laws of this Commonwealth, to be by said Physician used for the advancement of Anatomical Science; preference being always given to the Medical Schools that now are, or hereafter may be, by law established in this Commonwealth, during such portions of the year as such schools, or either of them, may require subjects for the instruction of Medical Students. *Provided, nevertheless,* That no such dead body shall in any case be so surrendered, if within twenty-four hours from the time of its death, any person claiming to be kin or friend to the deceased, shall require to have said body interred; or if it shall be made to appear to the Selectmen or Overseers of the Poor, of any town, in this Commonwealth, or to the Mayor and Aldermen or Overseers of the Poor of the city of Boston, that such dead body is the remains of a stranger, or traveller, who suddenly died before making known who or whence he was; but said dead body shall be interred, and when so interred, any person disinterring the same, for purposes of dissection, or being accessory

thereto, shall be liable to the punishment provided in the first section of the Act to which this is in addition. *And provided, further,* That every Physician so receiving any such dead body, before it shall be lawful to deliver the same to him, shall in such case give to the Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Boston, or to the Selectmen of any town of this Commonwealth, as the case may require, good and sufficient bond, that each body so by him received, shall be used only for the promotion of anatomical science, within this Commonwealth only, and so as in no event to outrage the public feeling; and that, after having been so used, the remains thereof shall be decently interred.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That the body of no one requesting during his or her last illness, to be interred, shall be surrendered under the provision of the third section of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That the third section of the Act to which this is in addition, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

DR. BEAUMONT.

THE faculty of this city have been very highly gratified the present week by a visit from Dr. Beaumont, whose interesting experiments on digestion have been noticed in our pages, and who politely afforded them an opportunity of examining the young man on whom those experiments were made. The parts appear precisely as described in his work, but present a color of brighter redness than we had been led to anticipate. So cursory a view of this most extraordinary case, served, it is true, little other purpose than to gratify a very laudable curiosity, since there was no time to repeat any of Dr. B.'s experiments. Cold water, which the young man drank in abundance, passed freely through the orifice in his side, and a probe, with half its length in the stomach, exhibited very clearly the peculiar movements of that organ. The facts stated by Dr. B. whilst conversing on this case, led us to conclude that the subject has been by no means exhausted in his published volume; and the profession may yet anticipate some further light on the functions of the stomach, from the investigations which it is his intention to pursue, for several years, with the aid of his Canadian patient.

We have merely room to add our thanks, and we may doubtless say those of all our brethren in this city, for Dr. Beaumont's polite attention in affording us this opportunity, and to express a hope that Dr. Jackson or Dr. Gay, or some other gentleman able in chemical analysis, will procure for examination a portion of the fresh gastric fluid, and give the profession the result of their analysis.

Ergot in Epistaxis.—A case is related in the Medical Gazette, in which a violent, recurrent, and obstinate hemorrhage from the nose, was several times arrested and at length cured permanently by the use of ergot. The bleeding ceased a very few minutes after administering the medicine.

A Man Porcupine.—A middle-aged man of athletic and robust form of body presented himself at the Westminster Hospital, a few days ago, in

order to show himself to the surgeons and students of the establishment. He was completely covered with a green horny substance, in the form of quills, not dissimilar to those which are produced on the porcupine. The parts which escaped the deformity are his face, the palms of his hands, and the soles of his feet; every other part of his person is abundantly supplied with this green horny substance. He sheds his horns or quills annually, and a fresh crop succeeds. He has been thus afflicted since his earliest infancy, and all the male members of his family, down from the great grandfather, have been similarly well furnished. His general health is excellent, and his secretions very regular. A model has been taken of him in one of the Borough hospitals.—*Lon. Med. and Surg. Jour.*

Effect of Sound upon the Auditory Nerves of a Person who was Trepanned.—The Gazette Medicale of Paris publishes the results of an experiment, instituted for the purpose of ascertaining the effect of sound upon the auditory nerves of a person who was trepanned, and whose ears were closed in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of his hearing through the ordinary avenues. It was proved that sound could be communicated by means of the cicatrice, in such a manner as to render audition easy, and keep up a colloquial intercourse with persons in the same room with the patient.

We do not know that the experiment has been tried upon a subject naturally deaf; if it has, and has likewise succeeded, the discovery will confer important benefits upon society, and restore the dumb and deaf everywhere to the enjoyment and use of their faculties.

Torsion of Arteries.—Clot Bey has employed Amussat's method with complete success, on a marine whose leg was taken off in the Hospital of Alexandria. He secured the anterior and posterior tibial arteries by torsion, simply taking each vessel between the fore-finger and thumb of the left hand, while with the right he turned it four or five times on its axis with a common ligature forceps. Not the slightest manifestation of a tendency to hemorrhage was afterwards observed. This is one of the first trials of the method of torsion that have been made on the human subject.—*Medical Gazette.*

Sub-nitrate of Bismuth in Diarrhœa.—A writer in the Bulletin Général Thérapeutique, recommends the sub-nitrate of bismuth, combined with the aqueous extract of opium, and columbo, in diarrhœa, dysentery, and the early stages of cholera.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending April 11, 26. Males, 13—Females, 15.
Of inflammation in the bowels, 1—consumption, 11—intemperance, 1—scarlet fever, 2—lung fever, 3—inflammation on the brain, 2—palsy, 2—convulsions, 1—fever, 1—old age, 2—drowned, 2—croup, 1. Stillborn, 2.

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